

RAOUL WALLENBERG CASE : WHEN A FIBBER CHANGES US (UNITED STATES) FOR SU (SOVIET UNION)

by Eliah Meyer

I. The document:

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, IS, US, UR, SW
SUBJ: REPORT THAT WALLENBERG IS STILL ALIVE

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. JERUSALEM TEXT BOOK PUBLISHER DAVID HERMAN ASKED TO SEE ME ALONE URGENTLY ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 30. I MET HIM BRIEFLY IN JERUSALEM AFTER HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO CONVEY WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
3. HE INDICATED THAT HE WILL BE ANNOUNCING LATER THIS WEEK AND ASKED US TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY THAT HE HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM SOURCES IN THE SOVIET UNION THAT RAOUL WALLENBERG IS STILL ALIVE. HE WAS SEEING ME, HE SAID, ON THE ADVICE OF GIDEON HAUSNER, THE PROSECUTOR OF ADOLF EICHMANN, WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND AND WHO THOUGHT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS INFORMATION.
4. I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD DESCRIBE WHAT INFORMATION HE HAD THAT LED HIM TO THIS CONCLUSION. HE SAID THAT

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HE HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE IN CONTACT WITH A "SOURCE" IN THE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ARENA -- HE SAID THE KGB. THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE SOVIET UNION HAVE PASSED EVIDENCE VIA DOCUMENTS TO ISRAEL AND THIS INFORMATION HAS COME INTO HIS HANDS. HE EXPECTS SHORTLY TO PUBLISH A BOOK ABOUT THE SUBJECT AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK IS OBVIOUSLY GEARED TO SPARK INTEREST IN HIS BOOK.

5. I ASKED IF HE HAD ANY WAY OF DEMONSTRATING TO ME THE AUTHENTICITY OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. HE SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE ALL OF HIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW IT. THEY WOULD BE THE FIRST TO SEE THE INFORMATION. HE SHOWED ME A LETTER IN ARABIC WRITTEN FROM BEIRUT. HE SAID THE LETTER ALSO REFERRED TO WALLEMBERG. THE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD WRITTEN IT IN BEIRUT, ACCORDING TO HIS CLAIM, WAS AN EXPERT IN AFFAIRS OF THIS KIND AND THEREFORE A RELIABLE WITNESS.

6. HE EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES IN OUR CONVERSATION HE WISHES TO "HELP" PRESIDENT REAGAN. HE ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO HIS OWN. I SAID THAT I COULDN'T SPEAK FOR THE PRESIDENT IN THIS MATTER, BUT VERY MUCH DOUBTED, GIVEN THE KIND OF INFORMATION HE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE ME, THAT THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. I COULD NOT SAY THAT THE US WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE INFORMATION HE HAD SINCE WALLEMBERG WAS A PERSON OF SOME EMINENCE IN MY OWN COUNTRY AND VERY WELL THOUGHT OF. HE SAID HE WOULD BE INFORMING THE FAMILY IN ADVANCE OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND SAID HE BELIEVED THE FAMILY WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PUBLICATION OF ANY INFORMATION ON WALLEMBERG.

7. I LEFT WITH MY INFORMANT THE THOUGHT THAT IF WE HAD ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR HIM OR WISHED TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS OFFER OF MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WE WOULD DO SO. I TOLD HIM I WOULD ENDEAVOR TO TRY TO GET SOME INDICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF INTEREST IN FOLLOWING UP OR OTHERWISE BEFORE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT TAKES PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SOME EARLY REACTION AS TO WHETHER THERE IS INTEREST IN SEEING THE INFORMATION OR DATA THAT MAY HAVE BEEN COLLECTED OR WHETHER THERE ARE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO POSE TO OUR SOURCE ON BEHALF OF THE US GOVERNMENT. ANY OTHER ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE POSED IN THE ABOVE CABLE WOULD ALSO BE VERY WELCOME.

PICKERING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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PICKERING

ADMTN

END OF MESSAGE

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II. Version by David Herman years later:

<http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=172446>

Sir, — The report on new evidence that Raoul Wallenberg was alive after the Soviets claimed that he died in 1947 only supports what numerous sightings and reports have stubbornly maintained — that Raoul Wallenberg survived in the gulag and in the Soviet psychiatric prisons as late as the 1980's ("Wallenberg revelations turn case 'upside down,'" April 2).

In 1985, in my capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Raoul Wallenberg Committee, I took a sworn statement from an elderly Caucasian Jew who had been imprisoned in Sverdlovsk for Zionist activities. In his moving statement, he told me that

he had spent four days in 1972 in the prison infirmary in the bed next to a fellow prisoner who was very sick with a badly bloated stomach. He had helped to feed him, and the prisoner had whispered to him that he was Wallenberg, a Swede who had saved many Jews in Budapest in 1945. The guards ordered the man to stop helping or speaking with him.

I sent his statement to the Soviet leaders at the time, but of course nothing came of it. I am convinced that in time we shall indeed learn the truth about the fate of this tragic hero of humanity, for the sake of his family, of his recently deceased stepbrother Guy Von Dardel, who searched for him vainly for 50 years, and of the thousands of Jews who owed their lives to Wallenberg.

DAVID HERMAN
Jerusalem